Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" provides for measures like total ban on advertisement of tobacco products, prohibition of smoking in public places, ban on sale of tobacco products to persons below 18 years of age and within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions to discourage the use of tobacco products. The Act covers all tobacco products and is applicable to the whole country.

Export of low quality wheat by STC

10. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether STC has exported low quality wheat resulting in huge losses during the last one year;

(b) if so, the cause of such losses; and

(c) how the losses are being subsidized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Technical agreements of MNCs with Indian Companies

†11. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Multi National Companies bidding to acquire projects in India could be forced to enter into a technical agreements or otherwise with the Indian companies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to implement the same on the basis of the proposal prepared by the Standing Committee of the Ministry; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented along with the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) To encourage transfer of technology in various sectors, the Government has been progressively liberalising foreign technology collaboration agreement regime. The Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry in its 120th Report while discussing the Demand for Grants of Department of Heavy Industry for 2003-04 has recommended association of Indian Companies for technology transfer and updation, when foreign companies bid for large contracts in India. The extant policy governing Foreign Technology Collaboration Agreement do not stipulate such a condition. However, MNCs bidding for projects in India would also be governed by the terms of tender floated for the purpose. FDI policy, including the policy relating to Foreign Technical Collaboration Agreement is reviewed on an ongoing basis, wherein recommendations received from various quarters are taken into account.

Marine Export to USA

12. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the majority of the Indian marine products are exported to USA;

(b) if so, the details of the marine exports made to USA during the last five years; year-wise; and

(c) the other major countries to which India is exporting its marine products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) As per export figures provided by the Marine Products Export Development Authority, the exports of marine products to the USA during the year 2002-03 amounted to US $ 376.39 million, which is 26.8 of the total marine products exported from India.

(b) The quantity and value-wise export of marine products to the USA during the last five years have been as follows: